

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0776

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, UN
SUBJ: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM - WEO GROUP MEETING
AND MARCH 15 MEETING OF COMMITTEE

REF: USUN 158

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM MET BRIEFLY
AM MARCH 15. SINCE NO CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED
AS TO CHAIRMAN, MEETING ADJOURNED UNTIL 3:00 PM MARCH 16.
ASIANS (SYRIA) AND AFRICANS (ALGERIA) HAVE NOT SO FAR AT
LEAST ENDORSED CANDIDACY OF AMBASSADOR HOVEYDA OF IRAN
FOR CHAIRMANSHIP. WEOS, LAS AND EES WOULD SUPPORT HOVEYDA.
END SUMMARY.

2. WEO GROUP OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM MET IN AM
MARCH 15 TO DISCUSS ELECTION OF BUREAU OF COMMITTEE AND
METHOD OF WORK. UK (FIFOOT) IS CHAIRMAN OF WEO GROUP;
UK, US, FRANCE, SWEDEN, TURKEY, ITALY AND AUSTRIA
ATTENDED MEETING. CANADA AND GREECE WERE ABSENT.

3. SWEDEN (PERSON) INFORMED WEOS THAT STOCKHOLM
HAD DECIDED THAT SWEDEN SHOULD NOT SEEK ONE OF THE THREE
VICE-CHAIRMANSHIPS. NO OTHER WEO MEMBER HAS VOLUNTEERED
CANDIDACY. HOWEVER, WEO GROUP DECIDED THAT IT ESSENTIAL
TO HAVE WEOG MEMBER OF THE BUREAU IN PARTICULAR TO AVOID
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SETTING PRECEDENT OF BEING UNREPRESENTED.

4. CANADA, WHICH WAS VICE-PREISDENT DURING 1973
SESSION OF COMMITTEE, MAY YET BE PERSUADED TO AGAIN
ACCEPT A SEAT. PERSON, WHO BE EXPEREICNE AND
SENIORITY WOULD APPEAR TO BE HIGHLY SUITABLE CANDIDATE,
HAS BEEN ASKED BY US AND BRITISH TO ASK STOCKHOLM TO

RECONSIDER ITS POSITION. PERSON PROMISED TO TAKE UP POSSIBILITY WITH SWEDEN'S PERM REP. THERE IS ALSO SOME INDICATION THAT AUSTRIA MAY VOLUNTEER. WEOG SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET NEEDED CANDIDATE FROM ONE OF THE THREE.

5. IRAN (HOVEYDA) MAY BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT CHAIRMANSHIP. OUR CONVERSATIONS INDICATE LAS, EES, AND WEOS COULD ALL SUPPORT HOVEYDA. HOWEVER ASIANS (SYRIA) AND AFRICANS (ALGERIA) FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, HAD NOT ENDORSED HIM.

6. AMBASSADOR GIAMBRUNO (URUGUAY) BELIEVES THAT, IF HOVEYDA IS NOT ENDORSED BY ALL, AMBASSADOR CONSALVI OF VENEZUELA COULD BE PERSUADED TO STAND.

7. AMBASSADOR JAIPAL (INDIA) HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS POTENTIAL CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMAN, BUT HE HAS REPORTEDLY DECLINED.

8. WEO GROUP ALSO DISCUSSED METHOD OF WORK COMMITTEE MIGHT FOLLOW. PRELIMINARY VIEW WAS THAT WORK SHOULD BEGIN WITH, AND POSSIBLY GO NO FARTHER THAN, GENERAL DEBATE. SWEDEN, HOWEVER, THOUGHT THAT GENERAL DEBATE WOULD BE NONPRODUCTIVE AND SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE HAVE TWO WORKING GROUPS OF THE WHOLE; ONE WOULD SEEK TO DELIMIT ACTS OF VIOLENCE WHICH WOULD FALL UNDER THE HEADING "INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM" SO THAT SPECIFIC CONVENTIONS MIGHT LATER BE DRAFTED CONCERNING THEM; THE OTHER MIGHT DISCUSS MEASURES STATES CAN TAKE THEMSELVES TO COMBAT TERRORISM. ITALY AND AUSTRIA SUGGESTED THAT THE CONVENTION

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ON TERRORISM CONCLUDED BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE BE CIRCULATED AS A DOCUMENT FOR CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE. WEOS TOOK NO DECISION ON SWEDISH SUGGESTION.

9. AT FORMAL MEETING OF COMMITTEE IN AM, MARCH 15, URUGUAY (AMBASSADOR GIAMBRUNO) SAID LAS HAD DESIGNATED A REPRESENTATIVE TO CONSULT WITH OTHER REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES ABOUT BUREAU IN ORDER TO HASTEN START OF SUBSTANTIVE WORK. GIAMBRUNO SUGGESTED THAT OTHER GROUPS APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES FOR CONSULTATIONS ON COMPOSITION OF BUREAU.

10. ALGERIA RESPONDED BY DISTORTING URUGUAYAN STATEMENT, SAYING IT DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW COMMITTEE COULD BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF DELICATE SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS BEFORE ELECTION OF BUREAU. ALGERIAN SUGGESTED THAT MEETING BE ADJOURNED UNTIL PM, MARCH 16 SO THAT CONSULTATIONS ABOUT BUREAU MIGHT CONTINUE.

11. UN LEGAL COUNSEL SUY, ACING AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, THEN PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 3 PM MARCH 16 AND THE COMMITTEE APPROVED. THIS PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT FROM THE FLOOR.

12. COMMENT: WE GATHER THAT AFRICANS HVE NOT CONSULTED AT ALL AS TO COMPOSITION OF BUREAU AND THAT THEY ARE IN NO HASTE TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE GET UNDERWAY. SYRIAN RESERVATIONS REGARDING HOVEYDA CANDIDACY REPORTEDLY RELATE TO FACT IRAN COSPONSORED FRG PROPOSAL FOR A CONVENTION ON TAKING OF HOSTAGES IN THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 31ST UNGA. GIAMBRUNO HAS TOLD US THT IF CONSALVI DOES NOT BECOME COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, LAS MAY THEN SUPPORT AMBASSADOR BLACKMAN (BARBADOS) FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN SPOT.
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